

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**NETWORK NODE FAILOVER USING MULTICAST ADDRESS OR PORT**

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The failover of nodes within networks, using a multicast address or a multicast port, is disclosed. A first node of a network joins a multicast group having a multicast address, which is assigned to the first node. Communication to the first node is achieved via communication to the multicast address, and/or through a multicast port on a switch of the network mapping to a port on the first node. When the first node fails, one of two actions occurs. First, a second node of the network may join the multicast group, such that the multicast address is assigned to the second node, and the second node handles communication to the multicast address. Second, the multicast port on the switch may be remapped to a port on the second node, so that communication to the multicast address is directed to the port on the second node.